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2003-2004 Volunteer Annual Report



The BLM Volunteer Program: Year in Brief



Fiscal year 2003 was a landmark year for the BLM Volunteer Program: for the first time in agency history, the dollar value of BLM volunteer contributions topped *\$25 million*. That figure represents a staggering volume of work in trail construction, weed pulling, facility repair, rock art documentation, wilderness restoration, conservation education, and general sprucing up and enhancement of our public lands.

In 2003, BLM was also proud to be part of Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton's relaunching of Take Pride in America® (TPIA), a national program that encourages and recognizes volunteer service on our public lands. Six outstanding BLM volunteers received the TPIA Secretarial Award in recognition of their long-term service, each having contributed over 6,000 lifetime hours. In September, TPIA hosted its first annual National Achievement Awards, at which a long-term BLM-Oregon partner organization was honored for its achievements.

More than 400 local and national BLM Volunteer Program partners played critical roles in helping the agency tend our nation's public lands in 2003. Groups of all sizes—small businesses and large corporations; nonprofit organizations and educational institutions; and County, State, and Federal agencies—provided financial support, materials, and staff to complete diverse public lands volunteer projects throughout the nation. Partners also helped to educate classroom students and visitors about public lands and resources, as well as BLM management issues involving wildlife, cultural resources, minerals, invasive species, wildland fire, and more.

Committed volunteers and partner organizations support BLM's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands by greatly enhancing BLM's ability to "get the job done." The agency is grateful for their dedication to our public lands.

NATIONAL TOTALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

Program	Volunteer Hours ¹	Hosted Worker Hours ¹	Total Hours
Recreation	471,764	84,760	556,524
Biological Resources	146,643	295,745	442,388
Wild Horses and Burros	51,090	71,620	122,710
Cadastral Survey	3,367	0	3,367
Wilderness	21,859	7,380	29,239
Riparian/Watershed	21,588	20,872	42,460
Cultural/Historical	98,689	8,859	107,548
Minerals	12,505	8,928	21,433
Support Services	43,888	37,365	81,253
Environmental Education/Interpretation	77,283	18,245	95,528
Other	35,058	15,506	50,564
Total	983,734	569,280	1,553,014
Funds Expended	\$825,769	\$198,781	\$1,024,550
Value of Work ²	\$16,910,387	\$9,785,923	\$26,696,311

¹ The term "volunteer", as used in the text of this report, includes "hosted workers." Volunteers work for BLM without being paid. They donate their time and, in some instances, equipment and money to assist BLM with a variety of jobs. Hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up about 37 percent of the total volunteer time in 2003.

² The value of volunteer contributions was calculated at the rate of \$17.19 per hour, a figure calculated by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The amount was based on the latest data available on the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the *Economic Report of the President* (2004 Edition).

Selected Highlights by BLM Program

Recreation

- Yuma, AZ: Ninety volunteers assisted in the management of the Long-Term Visitor Area (LTVA) program and 14-day camping areas, managing and operating over 15,000 acres of public lands and issuing more than 8,000 permits to the public.
- Bishop, CA: Sneakers Motorcycle Club volunteers patrolled public lands, providing visitors with information, education, and assistance, and furnishing feedback to BLM on resource conditions, potential use conflicts, and illegal activities.
- Idaho Falls, ID: At the St. Anthony Sand Dunes Special Recreation Management Area, 282 volunteers contributed 840 hours of cleanup work, removing 4 tons of litter and debris from the dune complex.
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, MT: Volunteers were responsible for registering and giving information to more than 9,000 river floaters and monument visitors.



Summer Chum Salmon Escapement and Run Timing Project, counting more than 6,000 adult salmon and sampling more than 700 fish for age, sex, and length information.

- Bakersfield, CA: Native Plant Reintroduction Program volunteers removed 40 tons of ice plant and other nonnative plant species from the Piedras Blancas Light Station grounds, facilitating the replanting and natural propagation of native plants.
- Uncompahgre, CO: Hosted workers with the Uncompahgre Plateau Native Seed Project mapped and collected native seeds from BLM sites throughout the Uncompahgre Plateau for growing trials.
- Elko, NV: From August to November, Hawkwatch International Goshute Raptor Project volunteer observers spent 6,500 hours recording raptors of 18 species within the Intermountain Flyway, and provided onsite education for visitors.
- Medford, OR: Volunteers constructed and monitored bat boxes at 16 sites in a research project to determine the types of boxes preferred by forest-dwelling bat species.
- Spokane, WA: Volunteers from local birding groups performed a bird count on International Migratory Bird Day.



Wild Horses and Burros

- BLM-California: Agreements employed to cohost wild horse and burro adoption events included partnerships with the San Mateo County Mounted Patrol, McClintock Saddle



Company, Equestrian Trails, Inc., Conejo Recreation and Parks District, and Mustang Spirit, which donated use of facilities, helped to promote adoption events, and provided gentling services.

- Little Snake, CO: In August 2003, the High Plains Mustang Club organized and hosted a wild horse show preceding a BLM-hosted adoption event.
- BLM-Eastern States: A Florida volunteer contributed hundreds of hours running a unique mustang rescue center, which also serves as a training facility for wild horses.
- BLM-Utah: Volunteers from the Intermountain Wild Horse & Burro Advisors gentled wild horses and burros, greatly reducing the difficulties experienced by first-time adopters. IWHBA volunteers completed a total of 9,635 hours of gentling and mentoring work from May to September 2003.

Wilderness

- Las Cruces, NM: Twelve volunteers provided approximately 90 percent of the field patrols within 24 Wilderness Study Areas, which encompass approximately half a million acres of BLM public lands.
- Burns, OR: Volunteers from the Steens-Alvord Coalition and the Wilderness Volunteers group worked in the Steens Mountain Wilderness to rehabilitate old road areas, remove barbed-wire fencing, and restore natural springs.



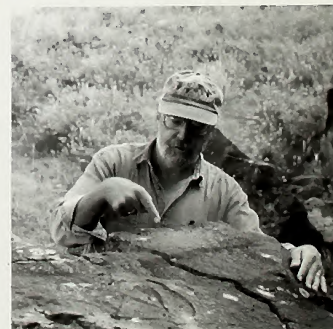
Riparian/Watershed

- BLM-Eastern States: In 2003 alone, a Florida environmental sciences teacher devoted over 3,000 hours of service to the restoration of the Jupiter Inlet Natural Resource Area wetlands.

- Shoshone, ID: As part of the new "Adopt-A-River-Reach" program, individual volunteers and groups helped with cleanup, restoration, planting, and weed removal on one-third of the river reaches in the field office's jurisdiction.
- Roseburg, OR: Over 318 miles of streambank were cleaned and 6,500 pounds of trash were collected during the 20th Annual Umpqua River Cleanup.
- Salem, OR: Molalla RiverWatch and a host of other organizations provided 990 volunteers who contributed 8,593 hours of work in the Molalla River Recreation Corridor, including weed removal, trail construction, and facility maintenance.

Cultural/Historical

- Northern Field Office, AK: As part of the White Mountains Karst Reconnaissance Project, small crews of volunteers were helicoptered into the area to survey karst features. A total of 15 caves and 33 rock shelters were visited, and at each, a variety of archaeological, biological, paleontological, and geological data was recorded.
- Carrizo Plain National Monument, CA: Southern Sierra Archaeological Society volunteers, ranging in age from 18 to 70, completed their 13th year in BLM's archaeological Site Stewardship Program, performing site monitoring and recordation, and conducting public tours of rock paintings at 24 prehistoric sites.
- Anasazi Heritage Center, CO: Seven days a week, volunteers assisted in greeting visitors, installing new exhibits, cataloging artifacts, processing research requests, maintaining the grounds and building, developing and implementing educational programs, and providing administrative assistance. In all, 59 volunteers and interns donated over 7,500 hours and six hosted workers contributed over 5,600 hours of their time.



- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, CO: In 2003, volunteers and site stewards, coordinated by the San Juan Mountains Association, contributed 1,147 hours to a variety of projects, including monitoring conditions in Wilderness Study Areas, documenting fragile archaeological sites, and participating in the Adopt-a-Road Program.
- Idaho Falls, ID: Five volunteers assisted with archaeological damage assessment and rock art documentation in association with a local cave survey. Previously unrecorded rock art features were discovered at two of the 11 caves surveyed.
- Roswell, NM: Volunteers continued to work on documenting Fort Stanton Cave National Natural Landmark, having already provided more than 50 percent of the information currently known about the speleogenesis of this BLM cave.
- National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, WY: A core group of 40 volunteer docents conducted onsite tours for more than 5,100 schoolchildren from throughout the state.

Minerals

- Northern Field Office, AK: An experienced geologist performed volunteer field work for a BLM mineral assessment, providing technical expertise and ensuring that field mapping and sampling were conducted properly.
- Albuquerque, NM: A volunteer assisted BLM lands and minerals staffs with compliance inspections, cleanup of files, and monitoring and review of major projects, most recently an oil and gas pipeline environmental impact statement. He also collected Global Positioning System data that provided the basis for modeling and spill flow prediction.

Environmental Education/Interpretation

- Campbell Creek Science Center, AK: Center volunteers assisted with an “open house” event featuring information booths and educational programs. Other 2003 volunteer events and projects included “Scoop the Poop,” Outdoor Week, National Trails Day, and the Project WET Water Education Festival.
- Arizona Strip, AZ: While student volunteers from the Beaver Dam School Student Council picked up litter along the Old Spanish Trail—which literally passes through their town—BLM staff provided a lesson on its history as a 19th-century trade route.
- BLM-Eastern States: Student Conservation Association and Outdoor Creations volunteers helped to conduct the 2nd Annual BLM-Eastern States Earth Day Event, assisting with environmental education activities related to conservation and natural resources.
- Baker City, OR: Thanks to the efforts of volunteer educators, 500 fourth-graders from throughout the region enjoyed “Explorers Day” at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Seven stations were set up, which focused on early explorers’ skills and experiences and featured animal tracks and skins, as well as live animals of the types that accompanied, or were encountered by, the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- Medford, OR: Volunteers with the Oregon Stewardship Program traveled throughout southwestern Oregon to provide environmental education to young people. Projects included trail work, habitat studies, fish watch projects, tree planting, data collection, sketching, creative writing, mapping, and classes in a variety of wildlife and environmental topics.



Other Programs

- Alaska Fire Service, AK: The Northstar Volunteer Fire Crew continued to be highly effective at recruiting Native Alaskans and other minorities for the Bureau's fire program. When not on fire assignments, the crew received wildland firefighting training and worked on a variety of resource projects.
- BLM-Eastern States: A volunteer contributed over 700 hours to help address information technology (IT) staffing and budgeting requirements, IT support levels, and other IT-related issues.
- Ely, NV: Hosted workers used modern technology to verify satellite imagery of the Earth's surface. This work, which provided the ground truth data necessary to verify 15 mapping zones that lie mostly in Nevada, will benefit the Great Basin Restoration Initiative. These workers contributed over 11,000 hours to process this data.
- Medford, OR: A retired BLM realty specialist volunteered his time to input road use data, update BLM right-of-way files, and assist inspectors on construction and survey projects.

of their volunteer work) were: Carole Adams, Cambria, CA; George Baland, Ridgecrest, CA; Diane Delano, Mims, FL; Alvin McLane, Reno, NV; James H. Hutchins, Medford, OR; Bob and Kathy Bailey, Moab, UT; and the Raptor Inventory and Nest Survey (RINS) Group, Sandy, UT. The BLM employees were John Rose, Kingman, AZ, and Gayle M. Irwin, National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, Casper, WY. Information on their extraordinary accomplishments is available online at http://www.blm.gov/volunteer/news/vol_awards_2004/vol_news04.html.



Special Events

- **BLM "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards:** Seven private individuals and groups and two BLM employees received BLM's "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards for outstanding volunteer service or volunteer program leadership on the public lands during 2003. The volunteers honored (with the locations

- **National Public Lands Day:** In 2003, approximately 8,000 BLM volunteers participated in National Public Lands Day (NPLD) events at more than 80 sites in 19 states. Work projects ran the gamut of all BLM programs, from wildlife habitat enhancement and archaeological site stabilization to riparian restoration and trail construction.

SUMMARY OF BLM STATE OFFICE VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2003

State Office ¹	AK	AZ	CA	CO	ES	ID	MT	NM	NV	OR	UT	WY	NIFC	Total ⁵
Hours ²	41.1	151.2	434.9	181.6	23.2	37.5	27.5	109.8	180.0	231.0	101.7	31.8	1.7	1,553.0
Value ³	\$707	\$2,599	\$7,476	\$3,122	\$399	\$645	\$473	\$1,887	\$3,094	\$3,971	\$1,748	\$547	\$29	\$26,696
Work Years ⁴	23	84	242	101	13	21	15	61	100	128	57	18	1	863

¹ State Offices: AK: Alaska; AZ: Arizona; CA: California; CO: Colorado; ES: Eastern States; ID: Idaho; MT: Montana, North Dakota, & South Dakota; NM: New Mexico, Oklahoma, & Texas; NV: Nevada; OR: Oregon & Washington; UT: Utah; WY: Wyoming.

² Thousands of hours.

³ Value in thousands of \$ based on \$17.19 per hour.

⁴ 1 Work Year = 1,800 hours.

⁵ Totals may be off due to rounding.

A Note from the Director ...



Dear BLM Volunteers:

I am pleased to share with you the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Volunteer Annual Report for 2003. This document, in a new format this year, presents highlights of what was truly a record-breaking period for our BLM volunteers: working

individually and in teams and partnerships, for days and for months, you contributed over *1.5 million hours* of time and talent in 2003. That's equivalent to the work of more than *800* full-time agency employees, and an increase of more than 26 percent over FY 2002.

This is an exciting time for BLM, a pivotal chapter in our agency's history. As principal stewards of 261 million acres of public lands and resources, we find ourselves on the leading edge of some of our nation's great challenges: improving the health of forests and rangelands, preserving native species, implementing a national fire plan to protect communities and the environment, and guarding our

fragile biological and heritage resources—all while supporting economic activities that sustain local communities.

We at BLM cannot possibly accomplish the day-to-day responsibilities of our agency's complex, multiple-use mandate alone. We gladly rely on the help of concerned citizens such as you, who believe in our mission, who love the public lands, and who are willing to volunteer their time and energy in the spirit of stewardship and service.

To quote a dear friend of mine—a lifelong, devoted steward himself—"People can best be judged by how they spend their time when they're *not* at work." You, our volunteers, have generously chosen to spend your precious free time in service to your public lands, your communities, and your nation—in short, to do even *more* work when you're "not at work." Speaking for all of us in the Bureau of Land Management, I offer you my sincere thanks for your generosity and for your invaluable contributions to our public lands.

Kathleen Clarke
Director, Bureau of Land Management

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY FOR FISCAL YEARS 1998-2003

	1998	1999	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003
Total Hours	1,355,130	962,293	755,576	1,119,038	1,231,245	1,553,014
Value to BLM (\$)	19,378,359	14,270,805	11,628,315	17,960,560	20,364,792	26,696,311 ²
Work Years ³	753	535	420	622	684	863
Value of One Work Hour (\$)	14.30	14.83	15.39	16.05	16.54	17.19 ⁴
Value of One Work Year (\$)	25,740	26,694	27,702	28,890	29,772	30,942

¹ Incomplete data for the year 2000. Not all field offices reported.

² The 2003 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$1,024,550, for a return of about \$26.05 for every \$1.00 expended.

³ 1 Work Year = 1,800 hours.

⁴ Volunteer contributions were valued at the rate of \$17.19 per hour, a figure calculated by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The amount was based on the latest data available on the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the *Economic Report of the President* (2004 Edition).

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